

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-KS-2-03-02

Issued at Palmer, May 22, 2002

Effective Noon, May 22, 2002
Date:

Expiration Date: 11:59PM July 13, 2002,
unless superseded by subsequent emergency
order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or more in length from one (1) to two (2) in Westside Susitna River streams open to king salmon fishing from the mouth of the Susitna River upstream to its confluence with the Deshka River (including the Deshka River) but **excluding Alexander Creek**. Refer to both the "Susitna River Unit 1" on page 44, and the "Susitna River Unit 4" on page 48 of the *2002 Sport Fishing Regulation Summary for Southcentral Alaska*.

REGULATION:

5 AAC 61.022(b)(2) and 5 AAC 61.022(b)(5) SUSITNA RIVER DRAINAGE: WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

In all waters of the above described area open to king salmon fishing, **except Alexander Creek**, the possession limit is two king salmon 20 inches or more in length.

Frank Rue
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Dave Rutz
Dave Rutz
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

During their February 2002 meeting, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) passed regulations that established a two (2) fish possession limit for king salmon 20 inches or more in length for those Westside Susitna River tributaries open to king salmon sport fishing, excluding Alexander Creek. This new regulation has not yet been signed into law, making it necessary to enact this order.

King salmon runs into Westside Susitna systems, except Alexander Creek, have been at the upper end of their Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) ranges for the past five years. Some systems have exceeded the upper end of these SEG ranges. The 2002 preseason forecast for Deshka River king salmon is predicting a strong run. During years of strong Deshka River king salmon runs, other systems in Northern Cook Inlet generally receive average to above average king salmon runs. It is expected that the increased harvest resulting from a two-fish possession limit will likely provide for escapements within the SEG ranges.

Alexander Creek king salmon escapements have been at the lower end of the SEG range and have likely been severely impacted by northern pike predation. For these reasons, Alexander Creek is excluded from the liberalization of possession limits in this Emergency Order.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2218.